

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0051] Apparatus suitable for use in convertible vehicles may include a convertible top comprising a substantially rigid front portion that moves downwardly towards and releaseably engages a windshield frame of the vehicle in order to close the convertible vehicle. At least one dampening device may be disposed at a rear portion of the convertible top and may be operably coupled to the front portion in order to slow downward movement of the front portion during a final phase of a convertible top closing operation. Further, the dampening device may be operably coupled between two pivotably connected linkages provided within the rear portion of the convertible top. The two pivotably connected linkages are preferably arranged and constructed so that the opening distance between the two linkages increases when the front portion is moving downwardly towards the windshield frame.